E. Hale Abbot

from

E. Barry Dalton

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THE

BOSTON COMMITTEE

OR

IN CANADA.

A SERIES OF EIGHT LETTERS REPRINTED FROM THE BOSTON ATLAS.

E. Hale Abbott
Freshman
Viridis homo

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BOSTON COMMITTEE

IN CANADA.

A SERIES OF EIGHT [illegible] PRINTED FROM

THE BOS[illegible]

BOSTON:
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NOTE.

The Letters here republished, were hastily jotted down from memory, upon the return of the writer from Canada.

The interest evinced by the public in the novel mission of the Committee, and a general desire of all to know something of the objects and results of this visit, seemed to the writer a sufficient reason for the composition of the few papers which have [illegible] the columns of the Boston Atlas.

Of course, th[illegible] of but one member of the Committee, and for [illegible] here given, he alone is responsible.

D. N. H.

Boston, September, 18[illegible]

LETTERS.

LETTER, No. I.

To the Editors of the Atlas.

Gentlemen:—The interest evinced by the citizens of Boston, in the recent official visit of a Committee of the City Council to the cities of the Canadas, and the important results which it is hoped will follow from their mission, not only to the trade of our merchants, the freight upon the northern lines of railway, which centre in Boston—but also the cultivation of the social [illegible] numerable influences which spring from [illegible] with persons who reside under different [illegible] induce me to give through your columns, such facts connected with their tour and reception, as may be of public interest.

The telegraph has announced [illegible] eminent facts connected with their reception, but there [illegible] interesting circumstances connected therewith, [illegible] are thought to be worthy to be mentioned in detail. There are many things however, which a proper regard for the laws of hospitality and propriety requires should not be made public, but which if communicated, would tend in the highest degree to cement those bonds of amity and kindness which at present seem to exist between the merchants and public men of the United States and the Canadas. The cordiality and heartiness of the reception of the Boston delegation, and the princely hospitality which was bestowed upon them, are an earnest, it is hoped, of a greater degree of intimacy and mercantile com-

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munication, which will be mutually advantageous to the people of both countries.

It may be necessary, in this connection, to briefly allude to the circumstance under which the celebration was decided upon, and the reasons which have induced the City Government to move in this matter.

It is well known, that within the past twenty years, the subject of internal improvement has attracted, to a great extent, the attention of our citizens. The short, but very concise and clear statements, contained in the address to the people of Boston by the Mayor, have placed the results of the various enterprises prominently before the public.

The northern lines to Canada are now completed. Before the period of the celebration, Boston will be within twelve hours travel of Montreal, and during the next winter, the facilities for communication will be such, that a revolution in the trade between the Atlantic coast and the Canadas, will be effected.

After conference with many of our leading merchants, and persons connected with the lines of travel, the members of our City Government [illegible] that the importance of these means of communication to the trade and commerce of Boston, was well worthy the attention of its Municipal Officers, and that the present period was a most favorable time to commemorate the completion and success of those vast schemes of internal communication, which our citizens had at great sacrifices been able to construct. It was thought that the commemorative services should be upon a scale commensurate with the magnitude of the enterprises they were designed to celebrate.

The officers of the various railway lines in New England, and those of our public spirited merchants and capitalists, to whose energy and sagacious foresight our city is mainly indebted for her high character, both in our own country and abroad, gave their warm approval of the measure, and pledged their aid and co-operation. The work was intrusted to a committee of twenty-three members of the City Government, and from the general committee, various sub-committees were

chosen. The Committee on Invitation consists of the Mayor, the President of the Common Council, two Aldermen, and seven members of the Common Council.

It was deemed advisable that a deputation from the General Committee should personally visit the Canadas, to seek the co-operation of the Provincial and Municipal Authorities, and by interviews with the principal business firms, and persons connected with, or interested in the lines of travel, to secure the attendance of those whose visit to Boston would be most conducive to give publicity, to the great mass of the people, of the completion of the lines of railway, the facilities now open for freight and travel, and the peculiar advantages our city enjoys as the great outlet, on the Atlantic coast, for the immense productions of the West and the Canadas; and also the facilities which are opened for the transit of merchandise from foreign ports, destined for Canadian Markets.

The Presidents of all the Northern lines of railway, from Boston, furnished the Committee with free passes over the various roads, our merchants and public men gave them letters of introduction to the Canadian merchants and authorities, and they left Boston [illegible]on, with a determination that every proper [illegible] made to render the Railroad Jubilee of 1851 worthy of the great event to be commemorated, and the character of the city whose representatives they were.

They left Boston on Saturday, [illegible]th, by way of the Boston and Maine Railroad to Lawrence, thence by the Manchester and Lawrence, Concord, Northern, and Vermont Central Railroads to Northfield, Vermont. At Northfield they had an interview with the Hon. Charles Paine, and his associates in the direction of the Vermont Central, and Vermont and Canada Roads. They obtained a great deal of valuable information from their intercourse with Ex-Governor Paine, and other gentlemen connected with the lines to Canada.

At Northfield they were most hospitably entertained. The public house at this place, erected to accommodate travellers who patronize the Vermont Central Railroad, is a model hotel. The scenery in its vicinity is very fine indeed, and strangers

can obtain excellent views of the Green Mountains from this point.

The route of the Committee through our own State and its neighbor, New Hampshire, was through a region which indicated in every direction the great influence which railways have exerted, in developing) resources and applying to practical use the water privileges of New England. The valley of the Merrimac, with its fine water-falls, its rich and extensive tracts of interval land, ornamented with the majestic and beautiful elms which abound throughout its vallies, the flourishing towns along its banks, which have been established by the enterprise of our citizens, are objects of interest to all travellers, to whom

"Custom cannot stale their infinite variety."

The farm of Mr. Webster, in Franklin, is one of the most beautiful objects along this route. His neat country residence with its ample fields, its fine lawns, and the high state of culture which his lands present, appears in marked contrast with the surrounding country.

The entire line of road over which the delegation travelled, appears to be well built; there is no visible evidence that the work has been slighted, or that the price of the stock has affected the thorough character of the road bed, and all the fixtures or furniture of the lines. Every indication evinced that the stockholders were the only parties who had cause for complaint respecting the pecuniary difficulties under which the work had been executed.

At Northfield, a portion of the Committee passed over to Burlington to confer with the President and Officers of the Burlington and Rutland Railroad, to make such arrangements with them respecting the passage over their road, of such of our Canadian friends as might wish to travel by that route, as it was the design and purpose of the delegation, and of our city authorities, to make the celebration one of a general character, so that all the rival lines should be treated in the same manner. The celebration is to be of a popular charac-

ter, and no apprehension need be felt that any particular interest, or line, will be unduly prominent therein.

Having thus stated as clearly as is in my power, the objects and design of the celebration, and the early proceedings of the Committee having the subject in their hands, it is proposed, in the succeeding numbers, to give a detailed account of the movements of the delegation to Canada, and the impressions of one of the number, which have been obtained while engaged upon the mission.

LETTER, No. II.

It is proposed in this, and the succeeding articles of the series, to state the facts connected with the tour of the Boston Delegation to the Canadas, in chronological order.

The Committee left Northfield at 6 o'clock, A. M., on Monday, August 11th, and arrived at West Alburgh, a distance of 90 miles, in three and a half hours running time, or four hours, including stops. They crossed Lake Champlain in the steamer Ethan Allen, and found that arrangements had been made for their accommodation by the agents and officers of the Ogdensburg Railroad. A large and convenient hotel has been finished over the extensive station house of the Ogdensburgh Road, at Rouse's Point. This Road is known in the region through which it passes as the "Northern Road."

In crossing Lake Champlain, the steamer's course was parallel with the extensive structure which was authorized by the last session of the New York Legislature, by means of which the trains will pass across an opening between two piers, upon a long floating barge, propelled by steam, and which will be arranged to float into square sections at each end of the piers. This work is nearly completed. From the appearance of the premises, it would appear that but a

short time will be required to enable a train to cross this open space. The roads which terminate at this point have had a large territory secured for their accommodation.

The cars of the Ogdensburg Road were here taken. The train consisted of five well-filled passenger cars. Each car was furnished with a large earthenware vase, which was supplied with ice water. The vase was of a handsome shape, so that it was quite ornamental, and the very frequent visits made to it by the passengers, attested that it was a very good arrangement for the comfort of the patrons of the road.

This road appears to be well built, and the smoothness with which the train passed at a high rate of speed over the rails, was the subject of general remark. The line of the road is through a level region. The land does not appear to be in a very high state of cultivation, though at some points of the line, the fields indicate that the soil is capable of producing heavy crops. When settled upon and improved, the country through which the Ogdensburg road passes will doubtless be one of the finest agricultural regions in the northern part of the United States.

New buildings appear to be springing up along the entire line, and at each stopping place there was unmistakable evidence that the increased facilities for business which the road now furnishes, were having a most beneficial effect upon the trade of the small towns through which it passes.

At the town of Malone, which is about sixty miles from Rouse's Point, the Committee met T. P. Chandler, Esq., President of the Ogdensburg Road, Col. C. L. Schlatter, the superintendent, Mr. Hoyle and Mr. Horton, two of the directors. The three gentlemen last named, accompanied the delegation over the road, and Col. Schlatter kindly offered to go to Toronto with them. The offer was accepted, and as this gentleman was well known throughout the route, his assistance was of great service. The officers of the railroad, and all persons interested in the various lines of communication connected therewith, expressed deep interest in the ob-

jects of the Committee, and offered their services to aid in the success of the movement.

The train reached Ogdensburg in five and a half hours from Rouse's Point. This place is 400 miles distant from Boston. The average speed at which the entire journey had been accomplished was 22 miles an hour, including stops.

The land owned by the railway company at Ogdensburg, is very extensive. The buildings are very large, and make a fine show from the water. From a short examination made, it would appear that the most extensive arrangements had been made for the accommodation of all kinds of freight, and for the safety and convenience of vessels engaged in transportation.

The deputation took passage at Ogdensburg in the steamer Niagara, for Lewiston. As the boat passed out into the middle of the river St. Lawrence, her passengers had a fine view of the town of Ogdensburg. This place is situated upon ground somewhat elevated above the river, and makes a fine appearance. The St. Lawrence is about a mile and a quarter wide at this point. Upon the Canada side, the town of Prescott is opposite Ogdensburg, and a steam ferry boat crosses every half hour. Prescott is upon a beautiful rising ground. The most striking object it presents from the river is the ruins of about a dozen buildings, which were burned by persons from the American side, during the border difficulties some years ago. The walls of these edifices are built of stone, and they now have a desolate appearance. The English arms, with the cabalistic letters, V. R., over the sign of the Customs Warehouse, were the first indications noticed that our party had reached the British Provinces.

A sail upon the St. Lawrence, on board of a spacious and comfortable steamer, is the very acme of the pleasure of travelling. The powerful engines of the Niagara forced her through the opposing current at a very rapid rate. Since the completion of the various lines of railway over which the Committee had travelled, a line of steamers has been placed upon the route, through the lake, to connect with the trains, and as they do not stop at but few places on the river the

distance can now be travelled in much less time than formerly. These steamers are called the Express Line.

The towns upon the American shore present a more enterprising appearance, than those upon the Canadian bank of the river. Many persons who have not visited the region, seem to think that the contrast between the two countries, along the St. Lawrence, is as marked and distinct, as the lithographic representations of temperance and intemperance. But the difference noticeable along the borders of the United States and Canada is not so discernible as the line of Freedom and Slavery upon the banks of the Ohio river.

Upon the New York shore, the villages did not seem to be at so regular distances from each other, as they are upon the opposite side, where, at about every nine miles, a spire, covered with tin and glistening in the sun,

"Points its taper finger to the sky."

The boat passed among the famous "Thousand Islands" during the afternoon, and for hours, her route was through scenery of the most picturesque and interesting character. She touched at Kingston, to land and receive passengers, and as we passed out of that harbor, which is formed by a bay, the clear tones of a bugle in the barracks, sounded the call to quarters to the cavalry there stationed. The boat proceeded on her course, and between the hours of nine and ten we were sailing upon the waters of Lake Ontario. The moon was near the full, the night was clear and bright, and it was with some reluctance that the party, about midnight, retired to their state rooms. During the four hours of the passage, after the lanterns were hoisted to the top of the mast, but two vessels were seen; one was overtaken, and the other was passed. Both were propellers, constructed to pass through the locks. The surface of the lake was undisturbed by either wind or waves, and the passage across the lake was one of the most agreeable character.

At the dawn of day, the fort at Niagara was in sight, and we had a fine sail up the Niagara river to Lewiston. The new wire suspension bridge, erected across the river at Lew-

on this season, makes a beautiful appearance. This bridge is wider than the one first thrown across the river, some miles nearer the Falls, and is the largest structure of the kind in the world. It was said that the cost was much less than the upper one; so that it would pay good dividends to the owners. It was built to accommodate the local travel between Lewiston and Queenstown.

At Lewiston the Delegation took the English steamer "City of Toronto," Capt. Dick. This boat was found to be one of the neatest and most comfortable of steamers, and its owner and commander as fine a specimen of the true gentleman as was met during the journey. Fortunately, Capt. Cotten, an aid-de-camp to the Governor General, was on board; the Committee were introduced to him, and arrangements made to further the objects of their mission. In crossing the lake, but three vessels were seen.

After a sail of about three hours, the city of Toronto was in sight, and its public buildings were easily distinguished. The Provincial Asylum for the Insane, the Parliament Houses, the Barracks, and numerous church edifices, make an imposing appearance from the harbor.

At Lewiston, a portion of the Committee took passage in a steamer for Hamilton, a city situated about 40 miles west from Toronto. This city is rapidly increasing in commerce and wealth. An important railroad across the country will terminate at Hamilton, and it is now confidently predicted that the place is destined to be one of the largest cities on the shores of the lakes. It is now popularly called the "Queen of the West."

The next article will be devoted to the city of Toronto.

LETTER, No. III.

The delegation were received at the landing in Toronto, by the Mayor and members of the Corporation, and by several of the Governor General's Cabinet Ministers. The news of the intended visit of the Committee had preceded their arrival, and the authorities had made arrangements to receive and welcome them. After a formal introduction, the Toronto authorities accompanied the deputation to their hotel. Mr. Beard, the proprietor of the public house, is a member of the City Government, and his attentions to the Committee were numerous, and of great value to them.

In a short time after the arrival of the delegation, the Governor General, through the interposition of his Aid-de-Camp, assigned an early hour for an interview at the Government House. At the time appointed, the Committee waited upon Lord Elgin, and were received with a cordiality which was quite gratifying to them. The letters of invitation and introduction were delivered, and the objects of the mission were stated. The interview was of the most pleasurable character. An invitation to dine the next day at the Governor's residence, was extended to the Committee, and accepted by them.

The personal appearance of Lord Elgin very much resembles that of Hon. John Quincy Adams. From the representations of his personal friends and political opponents, he is not only similar to the sage of Quincy, in his physical organization, but in those noble qualities of moral excellence which elevate and adorn men of exalted station.

Upon the afternoon of the arrival of the Committee, the band attached to the regiment stationed at Toronto, played for the amusement of the public in the grounds of the Government House, which were thrown open for visitors. There was a large collection of the populace, and the most perfect order and decorum were preserved, although there were no guards or police upon the premises. A printed programme

informed the multitude respecting the pieces to be performed. The band "discoursed most eloquent music," and the intervals between the pieces were improved by a band of bagpipers, also connected with the regiment. The dress of these highland musicians gave rather more pleasure to some of the party than their music; for if one bagpipe is sufficient to

> "Crack the voice of Melody,
> And break the legs of Time."

what can be expected from an increase in the number of instruments? The bagpipers were clad in the full dress of their nation. The plaid hose, bare knees, Scotch caps, and noble plumes, which mark their peculiar costume, made them objects of interest.

During the performance of the band, the piazza of the Government House was filled with distinguished personages. The Committee were there introduced to the members of the Cabinet, the staff, the officers of the army, and many members of Parliament.

The Hon. Sir Hew Dalrymple, commander of the 71st regiment of Highlanders, stationed at this place, politely offered to arrange a dress parade of his regiment, the next morning, for the special benefit of the delegation. The invitation was accepted, and the city officers volunteered to conduct their guests to the barracks and parade ground.

The Mayor and Corporation accepted the invitation of the Committee to visit Boston at the Railroad Jubilee, and the principal mercantile houses to whom letters of introduction had been sent were very much interested in the proposed festivities. Through the agency of the merchants, bankers, and public officers, the names of the most prominent merchants in Canada West were obtained, and invitations were forwarded to their address.

The Parliament Houses were visited in the evening, when both branches were in session. The apartments in which the two bodies convene, are in one building. The Eastern end is occupied by the Lower House, or "Legislative Assembly," as it is called. In the opposite end of the House the

Upper Branch, or "Legislative Council" is held. The building is of brick, without much architectural beauty; the wings which are devoted to Parliament, are conveniently arranged. The halls are about 40 feet in the clear, and are upon the first story.

The Library of the Houses of Parliament, is in the second story of the centre of the building. At the destruction of the Parliament Houses in Montreal, a valuable library was consumed. The Legislature is making every effort to restore the loss, and have voted, within the present year, $24,000 for that purpose; besides which, they have received many valuable donations of books; among others there is a complete set of the Journal of the House of Lords, from 1509 to 1849 inclusive. Congress has also contributed liberally, and several States of the Union have forwarded sets of their public documents.

The room first visited was the "Legislative Council." The members of this body are appointed by the Governor General. He also appoints the presiding officer in both Houses of Parliament. The Council consists of thirty-eight members at the present time. A majority of those present appeared to be upwards of sixty years of age. An animated discussion was going on, upon the question of the passage of a bill which allowed foreigners to become directors of railway companies.

The Hon. Rene E. Caron, the Speaker of the Council, took the floor and made an eloquent speech against the measure. He was dressed in a very full robe of black silk, and with his linen bands and intelligent countenance, would pass in Boston for an Episcopal Bishop, dressed in full canonical robes. The Speakers and Clerks of both Houses of Parliament were attired in similar style. When the Speaker took the floor to address the Council, he did not call any one to the chair. Three loud knocks upon the door arrested the attention of the Messenger. The Speaker resumed his seat in the chair, and placed a cap upon his head. A message was announced from the Assembly. The order was given to admit the messenger, when the Speaker marched forward to the

bar, and the visitor informed him that he was charged with a bill passed by the Assembly, which was duly engrossed in English and French, and sent to the Council for their approval. During an hour, five similar occurrences took place, though different members brought in bills. It is customary for the Speaker to appoint, as messenger to the other branch, the member who introduced the measure or bill.

The apartment occupied by the Lower House has admirable accommodations for visitors. The number of members is 84, who are equally divided between Canada East and Canada West. The arrangement of the seats is similar to that of the House of Commons in the Imperial Parliament. Upon the right of the Speaker, the members of the Cabinet occupy the ministerial benches, while their political opponents are seated directly opposite. After having seen one sitting of this body, the frequent allusions in English journals to "cheers from the ministerial benches," and cries of "hear, hear, from the opposition," could be understood. The 75 members present were not more orderly than the 380 Representatives in our State Legislature. In fact the noise and confusion was at times greater than the writer has ever witnessed in our State House. The members interrupt and annoy the person addressing the House, to a degree which would not be tolerated in any caucus or public mass meeting in New England.

The discussion, upon the occasion of the visit to the Assembly, was upon the expediency of asking for a loan from the Imperial Parliament, to construct a continuous railway from Toronto to Halifax. The whole subject of railways, with their effects upon business, their advantages over canals, and all the matters incident to their establishment, were discussed. The speakers in both Houses made frequent allusions to the United States, and the experience of our own State and of New England was adduced, in order to advance various conflicting theories.

The speakers were none of them so fluent as the orators who address our legislatures usually are. There was more di-

rectness, however, and a closer adherence to the leading points involved in the discussion.

The most effective speech made during the evening, was by Hon. Francis Hincks, the leading member of Lord Elgin's Ministry, and author of many valuable works on Canada. From the tone and manner of this speech, and from the interest evinced by members of all parties during its delivery, the inference would be drawn that Mr. Hincks was the leader of the Ministerial forces in the Assembly.

The present Ministry have a very large majority in the Assembly. The Cabinet are always members of the lower house, and the system of election, by which residence within the district is not a qualification for the members of Parliament, enables a person to be a candidate in several districts, and in case he is elected in two or three of them, he can select which constituency he will represent.

The entrance to the seats of the members is directly in front of the Speaker's chair, and each time a member enters or retires, he turns and bows to the Speaker, who returns the civility.

Each hall is ornamented with an immense full length portrait of the Queen. The one in the Assembly was saved from the flames at Montreal, at the time of the destruction of the Parliament Houses, by a mob, a few years since. The picture shows marks of the heat to which it was then exposed.

Many of the members of Parliament have genuine French features, and the speech of quite a number indicates that they are of French descent. The presiding officers of both houses are of the class popularly known as French Canadians. About a dozen of the members who avow political sentiments which in the United States would be termed Radical, are known in Canada by the very suggestive name of the "Clear Grits."

During the sessions, some of the members sit with their hats on, while others appear desirous to show the soles of their boots to their associates. The business of the session is usually transacted in the evening and night. The evening

previous to our visit to the houses, the lower branch adjourned at 2 o'clock in the morning, after a session of eleven hours. About 11 o'clock seemed to be regarded as the proper time to adjourn.

The offices of the various departments of the Provincial Government are in the immediate vicinity of the Parliament houses. The proceedings in the Legislative Council and Assembly, seemed to attract public attention in the same degree as the action of Congress excites the public mind during its sessions at Washington.

LETTER, No. IV.

Toronto is comparatively a new city. In 1830 its population was 2860. In 1849 it was 23,505, and it is estimated that before the close of next year it will contain upwards of 30,000 people. The general appearance of the city very much resembles that of the flourishing cities in Western New York and Pennsylvania. The streets are wide, and are laid out with a view to the future growth of the place. They have plank side walks. The business streets are paved with wood, or covered with planks. The roads which lead from the city are macadamized, and are kept in admirable order.

The city has a supply of water, under the control of the Corporation. It is well furnished with drains and sewers, it has a fine market building, and those to whom its municipal affairs have been entrusted, appear to have exercised the responsible duties of their station upon a liberal scale, which reflects the highest credit upon their enlarged views and comprehensive policy.

The Mayor of the city is the senior partner in one of the most extensive mercantile houses, and a number of the members of the Corporation are connected with houses of established reputation. The Mayor is a Member of Parliament. Quite a number of the citizens of Toronto represent distant constituencies in the Legislative Assembly.

Eighty-four per cent. of the population of Canada West is of the Protestant faith, divided among the various leading sects in about the following proportions:—22 per cent. of the whole population are Episcopalians, 20 per cent. are Presbyterians, 18 per cent. belong to the Wesleyan, Episcopal and other Methodist churches, 4 per cent. are Baptists, 16 per cent. are connected with the Romish church, and the remaining 20 per cent. are divided among the Lutherans and all other small Protestant sects. The character and nationality of the population, the popular institutions, the degree of social and political freedom, and the elements of progress can easily be inferred, from the above statement, of the religious faith professed by the inhabitants.

After devoting the morning to business connected with their mission in Canada West, the Delegation met the city authorities by appointment, and proceeded in carriages to the parade ground and barracks, which are situated about two miles West from the business portion of the city. A few block houses, built years ago, and surrounded with palisades, are within the barracks.

The 71st Regiment Light Infantry, Highlanders, under command of Col. Dalrymple, were formed in a line inside of the barrack enclosure. They marched to the parade ground, about half a mile from their quarters, and were placed in line, ready to receive the Governor General. As the clock in a neighboring tower struck the hour appointed for the review, a trumpet announced the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief with his staff. Lord Elgin and suite were received with the customary honors. The regiment was about 800 strong. After the review many battalion manœuvres were performed with great exactness. The ceremonies closed with a drill of the regiment as skirmishers, in which all the movements of

light troops in presence of an enemy, formation of squares to resist cavalry, firings, and similar movements, were exhibited with great accuracy and fine effect.

The Provincial Institution for the Insane, was next visited. The building occupied for this purpose, is finely located, and has very large grounds connected with it. It is about the size of the Massachusetts General Hospital, in Boston. It is a noble monument of the philanthropy of the Province. In its internal arrangements, it is the pattern of neatness and good order. The structure contains all the most approved modern arrangements for heating and ventilation. Both male and female wings have ample accommodations in each story to enable the inmates to be in the open air. It would be very difficult indeed to suggest any improvement in the building or its internal arrangements. The Superintendent stated that the Directors had visited most of the insane institutions in the United States, and had copied the best plans and arrangements in each. The number of patients was about 220. The same preponderance of female patients over the number of males, which now prevails in the institutions in the States, also exists in Canada.

There is but one colored patient in this Asylum. He was reported by the officers to be a slave, who escaped from Hon. Henry Clay some years ago. The fact of but one negro patient in the only public insane institution in Canada West, led to an inquiry respecting the number of fugitives in Canada. It was stated that the number of blacks who had fled from slavery, and settled in Canada, was not near so large as was generally reported in the United States. The writer made inquiries of public officers in the provincial and municipal governments, of clergymen of various denominations, and of intelligent citizens of different parties, and the testimony of these persons was uniformly the same. The city officers and lawyers stated, that while many of the fugitives were industrious and frugal, yet, as a class, they were not at all a desirable population. One of the most intelligent gentlemen stated that, as a class, the blacks of Canada were to the population there, much the same as the poor and ignorant

Irish immigrant was to the Northern cities of the States. The reader will please remember that the above is a mere recital of *facts*, and that in these articles it is not thought proper to discuss the abstract question, whether or not the most desirable population for a country will be those who escape from the oppressions of either the old world or the new.

One fact connected with the Insane Asylum in Toronto will show the religious toleration which exists in Canada West. There are rooms in the building for religious services in the Episcopal and Roman Catholic forms, and one which is used for other denominations. The institution has a fine ball-room, which is often used by the inmates.

In returning to the city, the extensive grounds of the University were visited. One of the most pleasing and gratifying circumstances connected with the present social condition of Canada West, is the deep interest taken by all classes of the population in the subject of popular education. The last report of the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, chief Superintendent of the Schools of the Province, states the number of public schools to be 3059; the number of pupils connected therewith is 151,891. In Toronto, a fine building, situated in an open square of nearly eight acres, will be finished this year, for the Provincial Normal School. The building and land will cost $60,000. The corner stone was laid the 2d of July last, by Lord Elgin, who pronounced an address upon the occasion. This address has been published, and has met with an extensive sale. Its author is said to be the most finished orator in British North America, and we found his late public address had excited great attention. A perusal warrants the high praise which is elicited. Dr. Ryerson is one of the most celebrated clergymen of the Methodist Church. By his zeal and devotion to the cause of popular education, he has infused life and energy into the public mind to such a degree, that last year the people of Canada West voluntarily taxed themselves for the salaries of teachers for a larger sum, in proportion to their numbers, and have

kept open their schools on an average more months, than the neighboring citizens of the great State of New York.

In the evening, the delegation dined at Elmsley House, the residence of the Governor General. The party consisted of the Boston Committee, the speakers of both branches of the Legislature, two members of the Cabinet, their two predecessors, Sir Hew Dalrymple, an English Baptist Clergyman, Lieut. Jones, U. S. Army, Hon. Charles Paine, of Vermont Col. Schlatter, of Ogdensburg, the members of the suite Lord Elgin and his lady. The conversation was confined to the topics naturally suggested by the mission of the Bostonians, the present happy relations existing between the two governments, and the progress made by the people of New England, in the arts of peaceful industry.

Lieut. Jones served through the Mexican war, and interested the military gentlemen present, by his intelligent observations respecting his campaigns. We found the officers of the English Army, wherever we met with them, quite enthusiastic in their expressions of regard to the memory of the veteran warrior, who was called to the Presidential Chair by the votes of a nation of Freemen, and whose spotless career, both as a soldier and a civilian, has attracted the attention, and received the admiration of millions upon each side of the Atlantic.

After retiring from Lord Elgin's, in accordance with arrangements which had previously been made, the Committee, in company with the Cabinet Ministers, attended a brilliant levee at the residence of one of the citizens of Toronto. A numerous and brilliant company were assembled, and the evening was passed in a most pleasurable manner.

The Committee were gratified that Lord Elgin would accept the invitation of the Boston Municipal Authorities, if the state of public affairs would allow him to leave the province at the period of the commemorative festivities. His cabinet ministers, many members of Parliament, officers of the army, and official personages, have accepted invitations to be present.

The Committee left Toronto at noon, on Friday, the 15th August. During the last morning of their stay, they were waited upon by a large number of the principal merchants and bankers of the city. The members of Parliament, and of the cabinet, furnished them letters of introduction to various parties in Montreal and Quebec. The officers of the army called to pay parting respects to their visitors. The mayor and officers of the Corporation also came, and the proprietor of the hotel paid every attention to the large company assembled.

Quite a deputation from the various classes who had called upon the Committee, accompanied them to the steamer.

It may with truth be said, that the people of Canada West are desirous of cultivating the acquaintance, and extending their business relations with the people of New England. The mission of the Committee from Boston occurred at a most fortunate period, as the Provincial Parliament were engaged in the discussion of the whole subject of railways, canals, and public improvements, and public attention was engrossed by the debates upon the subject.

Canada West is destined to be one of the most prosperous and wealthy portions of the American continent. Its climate and soil are as favorable to agriculture as the best portion of New York. In five years out of the last eight the thermometer has not had so wide a range as it has in Massachusetts. The country at the present time is in advance of what Western New York was at the close of the last war with England. The people have many sympathies in common with their brethren upon the opposite side of the lake and river, and it is hoped that the influence which will be exerted by the increased facilities for communication, will be of a character to be of lasting good to all the parties interested therein.

LETTER, No. V.

The delegation left Toronto at noon on Friday, the 15th of August, in the steamer "Princess Royal," for Kingston. The Captain of the boat is brother of Captain Dick, of the steamer "City of Toronto," and by his courtesy and attentions to his passengers, their stay on board his boat, is rendered both pleasant and interesting. The English boats upon the Lake follow the Canada shore, and during the afternoon we sailed upwards of a hundred miles along the Southern boundary of Canada West. Throughout this distance, the land gave unmistakable evidence of its great fertility, and the towns upon the Lake appear to be rapidly improving in wealth and population. For ten years, during the past fifteen seasons, in the eastern section of Canada West, the wheat fly caused great loss to those who cultivated wheat fields. This loss was said to be very severely felt, and the whole region was retarded in growth and improvement thereby. But within the three past years the population of the whole Province have been prosperous, and a spirit of enterprise has sprung up which now gives promise to infuse life and energy into all departments of trade and industry.

The steamer stopped at Port Hope, a town sixty-five miles east from Toronto. This place has the best harbor upon the Northern shore of Lake Ontario. The boat landed quite a number of passengers at Cobourg, a prosperous town, seventy-two miles from Toronto. This place is one which is rapidly increasing. It is the district town of the Newcastle District. The buildings are upon a beautiful slope of land, and indicate that the population have wealth and good taste. The Wesleyan Methodists have a College located here; the building erected for its use, forms a prominent object in viewing the town from the Lake.

The officers of the steamer, and a number of the passengers were Scotch people. A blind musician was on board, and during the evening the main deck was the scene of much

merriment. Many Scotch reels and other dances were executed in fine style, and the merriment was kept up with increasing interest until nearly 11 o'clock. The boat arrived at Kingston by daybreak, on Saturday morning, so that our party had time to go up into the town, and examine its appearance. It has a most splendid market building, which excites the attention of visitors. The fortifications are very extensive. Kingston is said to be second only to Quebec, in the strength of its military defence. The streets are wide and regular. The spacious dwellings, and solid appearance of every thing about the city, reminds one more of Salem, in our own State, than of any other city or town.

Kingston is one hundred and ninety-nine miles west of Montreal, but the passage is made to Lachine, within nine miles of Montreal, in thirteen hours. In going down the river, the steamers pass through the rapids, and the current aids their passage materially. A sail through the rapids of the St. Lawrence is most exciting. No description will convey to those who have never made the passage an adequate idea of the scene:

"Nought but itself can be its parallel."

Our passengers were landed at Lachine about dark, and took cars for Montreal. By an accident to the train they did not reach Montreal till 9 o'clock. At the station house, the delegation found the Mayor and members of the corporation were waiting to give them an official reception. After an introduction the parties took carriages for the Hay's House, where rooms had been engaged for them. After a few moments the party were taken into the elegant hall of the Hay's House, where a splendid entertainment had been prepared. The deputation were welcomed by the Mayor, and speeches were made by several of the Corporation, to which replies were made by members of the Committee. They accepted an invitation to attend religious service at the Catholic Cathedral, on the following day.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral in Montreal is said to be the largest church edifice on this continent. It is of Gothic

architecture, 256 feet in length, by 135 in breadth. Twelve thousand persons can comfortably be accommodated within its walls. The pompous and imposing services of the Catholic ritual were performed upon a scale of grandeur and magnificence in harmony with the size of the edifice, and the throng of worshippers who crowded its broad and extensive aisles. The music was superb, and the whole services were upon a grand scale. The sermon was delivered in French. It was of unusual length, so that the services were full three hours long. The upper galleries were not full, yet a careful estimation of the congregation indicated that between eight and nine thousand persons were present. There were about one hundred priests and assistants within the altar.

The writer attended evening service at an Episcopal Church, where the soldiers connected with the regiment stationed in Montreal, who were of the Church of England, had public worship performed for their accommodation. The number of soldiers present was nearly seven hundred. They made a fine appearance in the church. The pupils of the regimental school occupied benches in the main aisle of the edifice, and made the responses in a loud and clear manner. The regimental band performed the chants, and played each time the word "Amen" occurred in the service. The effect was striking and dramatic. The soldiers of the army have their choice respecting the church they desire to attend. The natives of Scotland usually worship at Presbyterian churches. The Irish are mostly Catholics. About seventy per cent. of the population of Montreal are the descendants of the French, and it is, therefore, a Catholic city.

On Monday, the Committee devoted the morning to the business of their mission. They found the business men of Montreal quite enthusiastic in relation to the intended celebration. The principal bankers, importers and merchants gave the Committee a warm and hearty welcome, and assured them of their deep interest in all those great schemes of internal improvement, which have been principally constructed by the people of New England, to connect the Canadas with Boston. Already the trade of Montreal has felt the beneficial results

of the new and rapid means of communication, and her merchants duly appreciate the importance of the lines, which now place her within a day's ride of Boston, and which no five months' frost can fetter, or place under a winter's embargo.

At noon, the Delegation met the Mayor and Corporation at their rooms. Mr. Brinley, in behalf of the Municipal authorities of Boston, explained the objects of the mission, and extended a formal invitation to the Corporation of Montreal, to visit Boston the week of the Railroad Jubilee. The Mayor replied, in behalf of his associates, and accepted the invitation. The Delegation were gratified to find a native of Boston a member of the Montreal Board of Aldermen. This gentleman resided in Boston when the present City Hall was erected, and worked upon the building at his trade of stone mason. He went to Canada during the last war, as a soldier, under Gen. Dearborn, and after the peace of 1815, settled in Canada, where, by his enterprise and industry he has secured a competence. He assured the Committee that he would visit Boston and call upon them, in the building which he worked *upon*, and which they worked *in*. A member of the Corporation is a native of Vermont, and is a fine representative of those sterling qualities which have always distinguished the sons of the Green Mountain State.

At the interview at the Corporation's rooms, the Committee accepted an invitation to a visit to the "Mountain," a famous place of resort in the suburbs of the city. At the hour appointed, the Mayor and Corporation called at the hotel, and took their guests, in carriages. In each vehicle, but one member of the Committee was permitted to ride. It was also arranged that all political parties should be represented in each carriage. This was the case in all the cities visited. The object was, that no erroneous impression should be made upon the minds of the strangers. Hence, Tories and Radicals, Ministerialists and Opposition, French Canadians and Englishmen, were sure that their political sentiments would be represented to each visitor.

The ride round the mountain is through a fine country. North of the city, elegant and taseful residences occupy the land. After reaching the northern slope of the mountain, a magnificent panorama meets the eye. For miles and miles, the country is highly cultivated, and the scenery is superb. The valley of the Ottawa river can be distinguished for a great distance. To the South, the St. Lawrence is seen, with the level country, Laprairie, upon the opposite shore, with the range of mountains in New York and Vermont in the southern and eastern directions.

Monklands is the name given to the mansion house at the Mountain, where Lord Elgin lived during his residence in Montreal. It is finely situated, is surrounded by venerable woods, and its internal arrangements are upon a scale suitable for the residence of any person, however distinguished. After visiting the spacious apartments and extensive grounds, the company were ushered into an elegant hall, where a dinner was provided, in a style worthy the character of the city by whose authorities it was given.

At this dinner eloquent speeches were made, and appropriate sentiments given. The place, occasion, past history, and present relations of the respective nations and races of men, who were thus assembled as friends and neighbors, afforded themes for eloquence, and were improved in a manner which evinced that when the feelings are deeply moved, and upon great occasions, all men who have the attainment, as Jefferson expresses it, "of thinking upon their legs," can be interesting and eloquent.

It now appears that the social intercourse which results from our railways, and the intimacies and business connections established and increased thereby, will exert a very potent influence upon the people, in all countries where they are established. It was before the establishment of the modern means of communication that Cowper penned his familiar lines :

> "Lands intersected by a narrow frith
> Abhor each other. Mountains interposed
> Make enemies of nations who had else,
> Like kindred drops, been mingled into one."

The writer occupied a seat between a French Catholic and a Jew. The table was a sort of "world's convention," in which all civilized nations were represented. Two of the speeches were made in the French language, as their authors could not understand English well enough to speak it in public.

LETTER, No. VI.

On Tuesday, after passing the morning in receiving visitors from the various commercial, professional, and official ranks of society, the delegation, in company with the Mayor of Montreal, and a number of his associates in office, visited several places of note in the city. The Catholic Cathedral was first examined, and the long journey to its tower performed. The top of the tower is 220 feet above the level of the street. A magnificent view of the city and its suburbs is obtained at that great elevation, and although the ascent is a laborious one, the visitor is amply repaid for his fatigue, by the extent, variety, and beauty of the panorama which meets his vision.

Through the agency of our municipal guides, the party visited three of the principal nunneries in the city. The first convent visited was devoted to the education of young girls. It has been established upwards of 200 years. The buildings are very extensive. They are rather antique in their appearance. The school desks and furniture are full a century behind the times. The rooms have low ceilings: the walls are ornamented with lithographs of Saints, and scriptural engravings. They are as neat as the apartments of the Shakers. There are several chapels connected with the building, in most of them nuns were noticed at their devotions. The

garden of the convent was cultivated with taste, and was filled with beautiful flowers, which appeared in strange contrast with the internal gloominess, by which they were entirely surrounded. The lady superior was very attentive and polite; specimens of rich embroidery were produced, of such exquisite workmanship, that it would almost seem an abuse of eyesight to attempt to copy their fine and delicate shadings.

The next Convent visited was occupied by Sisters of another order. This structure is appropriated for the use of the indigent sick; it is, in fact, a pauper hospital. It is divided into wards, and is a very extensive establishment The ceiling is low, and the ventilation is poor. Each bed is entirely surrounded with curtains. From a survey of the beds and furniture in the apartments, it would seem doubtful if any modern improvement had been introduced during the present century.

In all the essential requisites of a hospital, this famous institution cannot in any proper sense be compared with the Deer Island Hospital, which is so far before it that no comparison can be instituted.

This comparison is not made in any spirit of fault finding, but simply to assure the people of Boston, that with all the complaints made by the Irish, who *patronize* our pauper establishments, the public charitable institutions of our own city, are really far before those provided by the wealthy Catholics of Canada for their poor. Our State provides better accommodations for the destitute, than the richly endowed, and powerful Catholic Church in Canada.

The matrons were very communicative, and appeared to be devotedly attached to their charitable work. They were not remarkable for their personal attractions, as three of them would not require the aid of dress, to make themselves appropriate representatives of three peculiar female personages required to perform Shakspeare's tragedy of Macbeth.

The Convent of the Gray Sisters was next visited. This institution serves as an asylum for the aged and infirm, and also for foundlings. It is similar to a poor house in New England. In each of the rooms visited, which are devoted to

the aged, a nun was reading the Scriptures aloud, in French, to a group of listeners. No notice was taken of the presence of visitors, but the reading was continued, and the interest and attention did not seem to suffer by the strangers present. One old veteran stated his age to be 95 years, and another gave his age at 87 years. The rooms were very neat and comfortable. The apartments devoted to foundlings were well filled with healthy looking children. The number in the building was reported to be 463. The total number now under the care of the Gray Sisters is upwards of 4,000. It was stated that eight infants had been placed in the gate within the past week.

The Catholic religious institutions in Montreal are richly endowed. Many of the finest squares of land in the centre of the city are owned by the church and the convents. In a sanitary point of view, the large number of open squares throughout the city is most fortunate. But from the New England point of view, the rich possessions, the costly structures, the fine gardens, and the enormous expenditure required to sustain the pomp and glory of Romanism, naturally excite the queries, whether the people are educated? Whether the population are enterprising? Whether the abuses of the old world do not exist in the new, where the institutions are copied after those of Europe? And also, whether the energies of the masses are paralyzed, where authority is arrayed against thought, and tradition is worshipped instead of the spirit of progress and improvement.

The above train of thought was suggested, as the first place visited after emerging from the walls of a convent was a telegraph office.

The Committee visited the rooms of the Bank of Montreal and were received with great attention by Hon. Peter McGill President of the institution. This gentleman was the first Mayor of the City, and now occupies a commanding position as the head of the largest moneyed institution in the British Provinces. The delegation found Mr. McGill one of the most intelligent persons they met in their travels.

The streets of Montreal are about the same w[illegible]h of those in Boston. The city has rather a sombre air, and the ruins of numerous conflagrations in different parts of the town present a gloomy aspect. It would seem that Montreal has been quite a loser by the loss of Parliament, and the occurrences which attended the removal of the seat of government to Toronto.

The public buildings of Montreal are numerous and extensive. The Hospital is a very imposing edifice which overlooks the city. The Corporation have just erected a market house: the halls in the second story are to be devoted to municipal offices. A large building has been commenced the present year, which will be occupied by the various courts. The Protestant church edifices are many of them elegant structures. The police and other municipal regulations are admirably arranged. During a stay of four days in Montreal and attending two large public gatherings, no person was seen intoxicated, neither was there any breach of the peace observed. The newspapers reported a murder, and the Mayor's time was occupied in holding court, to attend to the same class of cases which occupy the Police Court in Boston. But the whole appearance of the population was peaceable and correct.

The Mercantile Library Association have fine rooms, and a judicious selection of newspapers from the States. The Atlas was on file each day after its publication.

The people of Montreal appear to be very hospitable, and attentive to those who visit them. They seem to unite the social virtues of the English and French nations. A short acquaintance will only be required to dispel many of the mistaken notions the people of the Provinces and of the States now entertain of each other. It is hoped that no undue national vanity suggests the thought, that the intimacy about to be commenced will be of immense value to the people of the Provinces; that they now stand in great need of a practical application of the Saxon element of energy, and that by an infusion of enterprise and public spirit into the body politic, the Canadas will rapidly increase in wealth, importance

and population. By visiting New England, and personally witnessing the great results which have been attained here within the past thirty years, the people of Canada will have evidence which cannot be mistaken, that by a judicious application of capital, and a liberal policy, or in a word, by following the example of the people of Massachusetts, a few years only will be required, to give such an impetus to their trade, manufactures, and agriculture, that those now upon the stage will see their cities and towns contain double their present population, and their agricultural districts become the abode of a frugal, wealthy and prosperous community.

On the evening of Tuesday, the 19th of August, the Committee took the fine steamer "Quebec," for a trip to the city of Quebec. The passengers made a motley collection. The forward deck was covered with crates and boxes of vegetables, accompanied by their owners. The deck load was intended for the markets of the towns down the St. Lawrence, where the season is not so forward as it is in the vicinity of Montreal. Before the steamer arrived at Quebec, our enterprising market men and women, with their wares, were missing, as they had been left at the landing places where the boat had stopped

Some twenty Jesuits were on board the steamer, dressed in the peculiar costume of their order. They were of all ages, from fifteen to fifty years old. The most juvenile members of the party looked oddly enough, with their close-bodied garments, long robes, and three cornered hats on. They all appeared more demure and sad than serious or reflective. At the table their activity and zeal was so manifest that it attracted the attention of the passengers generally.

After a passage of eleven hours, we arrived at Quebec. The next article will be devoted to that ancient city.

LETTER, No. VII.

Quebec is one of the oldest cities in North America. Its name is suggestive of historical associations to the people of France, England, and the United States. From the water, the city presents a peculiar aspect. The walls of the citadel of Cape Diamond, which rise nearly three hundred and fifty feet above the level of the river, appear to tower over the lower town, so steep and lofty, that the inhabitants seem to dwell beneath an avalanche, which will one day bury them beneath a vast mass of rocks and earth.

From the citadel itself, the immense warehouses below, and ships of 1200 tons afloat in the St. Lawrence—rows of houses along the docks, and the quays, which are crowded with articles of merchandise, all seem insignificant and small, from that great height.

The streets of Quebec are most of them narrow, and nearly all of them are steep. Every object which meets the eye of the visitor, reminds him that he is in a city which is unlike any other place in North America. Our party arrived early in the morning; and as the day was pleasant, we had a good opportunity of seeing the city, before the inhabitants were in the streets. The entrance to the inner city, through a gate, the architecture of the public and private buildings, the strange language which fell upon the ear, the appearance of the streets, and all things which met the eye, reminded one of the old world.

After taking rooms at Russell's Albion Hotel, and warming ourselves before a bituminous coal fire—for the morning was cold—we went out for a walk before breakfast. The milk carts, drawn by dogs, and driven by women as well as by men, were an odd sight. To see a female drive a dog, harnessed to a cart, along the street, give the word for him to stop, then to fasten him by the reins to a lamp post, while the milk was served at the door in the rear part of the dwelling houses in the vicinity, was a novel spectacle.

Seeing persons enter the Catholic Cathedral our party, entered the doors, and looked at its magnificent decorations. The interior finish was mostly of white and gold. The building had a venerable aspect. Its altar was superbly ornamented. There were several hundred worshippers assembled. Public services were going on in three different parts of the edifice, yet the church is so extensive that no inconvenience seemed to be experienced, except when the sharp and searching tones of the bells used in the service, were heard throughout the building.

Workmen are now busy in constructing a new wing for the Parliament House. Extensive preparations will be made at Quebec, for the reception and accommodation of the officers of the Government at the next session of Parliament, which will be convened in that city.

The Committee were waited upon by Dr. Sewell, the acting Mayor, and the objects of the mission were stated. A meeting of the corporation was arranged, and the business connected with the visit was transacted. But a short time among the citizens of Quebec was required to enable us to perceive that society was most polished and refined, and that the people were distinguished for their urbanity, hospitality, and courteousness.

At noon our Committee received an official call from the Municipal authorities of the city. The meeting was a very pleasant one, and the Committee regretted that their limited stay would forbid their acceptance of the numerous invitations which were given them to remain, and partake of the hospitalities of the city and its citizens. The corporation have accepted the invitation of the city of Boston, and will be well represented here next week.

The Quebec authorities took the Committee in carriages for the purpose of visiting the Citadel, Wolfe's Monument, the Plains of Abraham, and other objects of interest. On our way to the Citadel we had an opportunity of witnessing part of the ceremony of "Guard Mounting." The review had just terminated, and as the guards broke off under their respective commanders, and marched in various directions, to

the posts assigned them, they presented quite an animated and brilliant spectacle.

After passing through a long circuitous passage, with high walls upon each side, and strongly fortified iron gates at each turn, we soon reached the heights of Cape Diamond, and were within one of the strongest fortresses in the world. The Citadel of Quebec was ever a place of immense strength, and when it finally fell into the hands of the English, in 1759, after a seige of two months, it was by capitulation, and had received no injury.

Since the war of 1812, however, the Citadel has been entirely re-constructed, upon the most approved principles of modern military science. An officer of the army informed us, that for several years, and at the present time, there were provisions, and military stores of every description, sufficient to withstand a seige of 18 months. The supplies were for 100,000 persons. It is now undergoing alterations, in order to remedy an important error of a former engineer, for which he was recalled to England.

The view from the top of the Citadel is one of great extent and beauty; upon every side, points of historical interest are pointed out. In this particular it greatly resembles the top of Bunker Hill Monument, though the view is far more extensive, as the spot is some 130 feet higher than the top of the monument.

The plains, or rather Heights of Abraham were visited, and by the aid of our communicative and intelligent guides, a correct idea could be formed of the famous battle between the English and French armies upon the spot, nearly a century ago. The monument erected by the officers of the British army, to the memory of General Wolfe, is a prominent object of interest in the vicinity of the heights.

In the afternoon our party, by invitation of the authorities, visited the celebrated Falls of Montmorenci. The ride to the Falls is through a thickly settled agricultural district. Most of the houses have a solid and venerable appearance. The people were many of them out of doors; the children were thick in numbers and personal appearance; the quan-

tity of little ones along the road soliciting pennies, reminded one of Washington Irving's allusion to "urchins and toadstools." The land about Quebec is divided into very small lots. Ten acres would be regarded as a large field. Women were noticed in the fields at work upon the growing crops, or engaged in raking hay. In a ride of nine miles a hundred females were seen at work in the fields. The females and children of Canada wear a summer hat of straw, with a rim of wider dimensions than the most ultra bloomer style in New England.

But one new building was in sight from the road, the entire distance of our ride. That one was an extensive and elegant Catholic church, which appeared in strange contrast with the buildings in its vicinity. About six miles from the city a cross is erected at the side of the road, in honor of the cause of temperance. It was a present to the people of the parish, from the Bishop of Paris. All parties united in praise of the zeal and devotion of the Catholic clergy of Lower Canada to the cause of temperance. Within the past five years great good has resulted from their labors, and the whole social condition of the masses of the population is said to have been changed by the instrumentality of the pledge.

The Falls of Montmorenci are an object of peculiar interest. No language can convey to the mind of a person who has not witnessed their varied beauties, an idea of their magnificence. To be appreciated and understood they must be studied. A whole day would be a short time to devote to an exploration of their rare and exquisite wonders.

Upon our return we visited the residence of Francis Xavier Paradis, Esq., City Councillor. This gentleman gave a most bountiful and splendid exhibition of hospitality, upon so extensive a scale, that most of the party thought they were in a large French hotel, instead of being at a private residence.

The Committee were informed at Quebec, that the Corporation were engaged in the construction of works for the introduction of a supply of water into that city. They were gratified to learn that the works were under the superintendence of a Boston engineer—George Baldwin, Esq., brother

of James F. Baldwin, Esq., one of the Water Commissioners for the construction of the Cochituate Water Works.

The general appearance of Quebec, and the suburbs thereof, plainly indicate that the people cling with tenacity to ancient manners and customs. They have the cheerful, social characteristics of the French people. But in a new and progressive world, they present the rare spectacle of an old and stationary society, which has remained unaffected by the great changes which have taken place upon other portions of North America. In an evil hour for the prosperity of Lower Canada, the English government, to meet a temporary exigency, established the English *criminal* and the French *civil* code. By the operation of the latter for a series of years, the province did not feel the influence of American Republican Liberty. The Feudal institution of France, before the Revolution of 1793, were not adapted to the social and physical condition of the people of a new world. Hence they remain at the present time, with all the peculiarities of French Provinces under the old regime.

LETTER. No. VIII.

On Wednesday, August 20th, at 5 P. M., the Committee took the steamer at Quebec, for Montreal, where they arrived early on Thursday morning. They were waited upon at their hotel by members of the City Government, merchants, officers of the army, and professional gentlemen. The morning was devoted to the reception of these gentlemen, and in finishing the correspondence connected with their mission in Canada.

Col. Horne, accompanied by several officers of the twentieth Regiment, waited upon the Committee, with an urgent

solicitation to remain and dine with the military gentlemen stationed at this place. This compliment was reluctantly declined, but an arrangement was made to visit the officers at their quarters, after the review, to partake of a collation.

At eleven o'clock, the deputation, accompanied by the Mayor and several officers of the Corporation, visited Camp de Mars, for the purpose of witnessing a review, which had been ordered in honor of their presence in the city. The troops were in a line at the hour appointed. A detachment of the Royal Artillery was also upon the parade ground. After a few movements of the troops, Lieut. General Rowan, commander of the forces in British North America, arrived on the ground, accompanied by his staff. This gentleman was very attentive to the Committee, and they are indebted to him for numerous favors. In personal appearance he resembles a late commander of the Independent Cadets, whose resignation as a member of the Massachusetts Senate from Suffolk County, last winter, was regretted by all parties. Gen. Rowan was in the battle of Waterloo, and upon the parade ground wore three medals which he had received for his bravery. The review was very splendid. It was witnessed by a large concourse of people, who did not require either guards or police to keep them off the parade ground. In the three reviews witnessed in Canada, the perfection to which military tactics are carried was strikingly manifested. The soldiers are enlisted for a number of years, and are drilled four hours each day throughout the year. Each man appeared to be throughly acquainted with the duties required of him, and in the most intricate military movements, a whole regiment would move with the accuracy and precision of a complicated piece of mechanism. The *soldier* was perfect, whatever the *man* might be.

After the parade of the infantry, the detachment of artillery were reviewed, and went through about the same drill as was given by Sherman's Company of Flying Artillery, on Boston Common, last summer.

The horses attached to the artillery were very beautiful, and entirely under the control of their riders. The harnesses

and equipments were very highly finished, and even elegant. In show and ornament, the Royal Artillery presented more pleasing attractions than Sherman's Battery; but in rapidity of movement, dexterity in management of the pieces, and all which partakes of the useful and practical in service, Sherman's Battery far eclipsed this famous English force. The efficiency of Sherman's Flying Artillery in actual service, where promptness and celerity are of so much importance, would greatly exceed the best manœuvres of this celebrated branch of the British service. The difference between the drill of the two companies justifies the above comparison.

During the review, the colors were trooped in a manner at once striking and imposing. The two colors were received at the left of the line, by the company which occupied the extreme right. The colors of the regiment were superbly embroidered and ornamented. The Queen's colors were also very elaborately finished. After receiving the colors, the company marched in the rear of the line, while the colors, accompanied by the band, were carried in front. The band numbered fifty-four pieces, and as they marched in front of the line, playing "God save the Queen," the effect was very striking. Several of the field officers were veterans in the service, who had won distinction and received high military honors, before a majority of the Boston delegation were born.

After the troops were dismissed, the delegation, by invitation of the General, visited the island opposite Montreal, accompanied by one of his staff, and the Montreal authorities. The immense military storehouses were explored. The extent and variety of the articles contained within them, would surprise those not familiar with the details of military expenditure. At the risk of encountering incredulity, only one fact will be stated. Upon reaching the powder magazine, our party were supplied with moccasins for the purpose of passing through the magazine. Some of the party declined to adopt the rule, which requires this precaution on account of the nails in the boot heels. Our military guide smiled at the declination, and stated that in case of accident, the nearest point of safety would be several miles distant. The

powder was arranged in casks, and stacked in immense piles throughout the entire extent of the building. An examination of the books of the keeper, prompted by Yankee curiosity, revealed the fact that there were upwards of *five million pounds of powder* stored within the walls.

Immediately upon their return to the city, the delegation visited the quarters of the officers of the 20th regiment, where a most superb and *recherche* lunch was served. The display of porcelain and rich silver ware was very splendid. Nothing could exceed the brilliancy of this entertainment.

Upon their return to the hotel, the Committee found a large number of gentlemen waiting to escort them to the boat, on board of which they were to embark for home. When the boat left the quay, three hearty cheers were given for Boston and the delegation. After an hour's sail across the river, the boat arrived at La Prairie, where the cars were taken for St. Johns. The party slept on board the steamer. At six in the morning the steamer started for Burlington, the sail upon the river and Lake Champlain was very fine. The route of the steamer was through a most beautiful region, the scenery of which is varied and picturesque. The wind was very high, so that the boat did not make her trip in the usual time. The delegation were accompanied from Montreal by Mr. H. D. Doane, agent of the Rutland and Burlington Railroad. At Burlington they met Judge Follett, President of the road, who accompanied them to Bellows Falls, and by his courteous attentions, the ride was made in a most agreeable manner. The scenery along this route is very splendid indeed. The train seems to pass through the mountains as if by magic—a new scene meets the eye each moment, and a person once passing over this road with his eyes open, will ever retain a pleasing remembrance of the extraordinary beauty of the Green Hills. At Bellows Falls, Mr. John S. Dunlap, the newly appointed Superintendent of the Rutland Road, joined the party, and accompanied them to Boston. Although the train was an hour late, owing to the detention of the steamer by the wind, it arrived at Keene at the usual hour. Between Bellows Falls and Keene,

eight miles were travelled in ten minutes. The average speed during the day, over the Burlington and Rutland, Cheshire, Vermont and Massachusetts, and Fitchburg Roads, was thirty miles an hour, including stops. The officers of these roads were very polite and attentive to the Committee.

During their absence from Boston, the Committee travelled upwards of eighteen hundred miles, and had interviews with many hundred persons, in various walks of life. They were received with marks of attention and hospitality too numerous to record. They trust the business and social relations of the city they represented, will long feel the beneficent results of their labors, and that their mission to Canada will be a marked era in the commercial history and prosperity of Boston.

In a journey of so many miles, and meeting with gentlemen, who entertain views upon most subjects of popular interest, so widely dissimilar to those held by the people of New England, many amusing incidents took place. It was interesting to note the repetition of the old arguments in favor of monarchical governments, creeds, and blind devotion to the past. The sound political maxim that "Freedom is the only certain cure for the evils of Freedom," does not appear to be recognised by those who look with distrust upon the principles of Republicanism.

But one incident will be given, to illustrate the ignorance which prevails upon religious matters in Boston by the cultivated people of Canada. In a conversation with a Baptist clergyman who was a most agreeable companion, the fact was stated, that a number of the Boston Committee were Unitarians. He remarked that as the Unitarians never celebrated the sacrament they were able to avoid the question of open and close communion, which was somewhat troublesome to the Baptists. Upon being informed respecting his great error in relation to the customs of Liberal Christians, he stated, that when in Boston some years ago, he was greatly surprised to find Doctors S. and N., Baptist clergymen of this city, regarded Dr. Channing as a Christian!

Two or three points of general interest will be briefly adverted to, before closing this series of articles. In their intercourse with the Canadian authorities, the Bostonians were constantly reminded of their distinguished fellow citizens, who have represented the United States at the Court of St. James. The impressions made upon English officials by Messrs. Everett, Bancroft and Lawrence, while they have reflected credit upon the country they represented, have also produced an effect in the highest degree favorable to Boston.

One of the most prominent topics of discourse among all classes, was the remarkable judicial trial which took place in this city last year. The manner of conducting the trial, its painful termination, and all the incidents connected therewith were familiarly known. A thousand questions were answered respecting the venerable Chief Justice, the eloquent and sagacious attorney for the government, and the devoted clergyman, whose connection with the trial, has given them a world-wide reputation. The dark history of that melancholy event has given our beloved Commonwealth a name and character abroad, which will be as enduring as any other historical event with which she is identified.

The enterprise, shrewdness, and high mercantile character of the people of New England has made a deep impression upon the inhabitants of the Canadas. The merchants who are acquainted in different sections of the United States, evinced in their conversation, a keen appreciation of the sterling qualities of manliness and uprightness which are the crowning excellencies of the New England character.

As citizens of the United States, the Committee had just reason to be proud of the country and its republican institutions. The silent influence of example, and the potent arguments presented in the rapid prosperity and advancement of our country, are exerting a powerful effect upon the public mind in Canada, which all the vain pomp and splendor of provincial authority cannot arrest. The feeling in favor of the United States and its popular institutions is confined to no class. This sentiment is evidently upon the increase,

and men now openly advocate and proclaim political opinions which meet with a response from the populace, which would formerly have been regarded as treasonable. Annexationists were met with at every point, respectable in numbers and character, whose admiration of the United States was unbounded and undisguised.

Could those who have recently defamed the people of Massachusetts, sneered at her principles and contemned her ancient Puritan characteristics, have listened to the eulogiums pronounced upon her by the eminent jurists, statesmen and merchants of the Provinces, they would have learned that a State, like an individual, has a moral influence commensurate with its devotion to those lofty virtues and principles, which good men everywhere venerate and commend. Let but the people of Massachusetts and New England emulate the noble qualities and elevated christian ideas of those who have gone before them, and laid deep and strong the foundations of communities where liberty is regulated by law, where education is the priceless heritage of all, where conscience is unfettered by legal enactment, and true republican freedom is enjoyed without limit; keep resolutely and faithfully on their course, and they are sure to receive the respect, confidence and admiration of all whose good opinion is worth possessing.

Let them be true to their ancestry, their history and themselves, and their influence will increase with the advancing civilization of mankind.